

I. INTRODUCTION TO THE SEVEN BOWLS OF WRATH (REV. 15:1-16:21)

- A. The fourth chronological section of the book of Revelation describes the *seven bowl judgment events* that Jesus will release upon the Antichrist's empire. The events of Revelation 15-16 occur directly after the sounding of the seventh trumpet when an announcement in heaven declares that the Lord is taking over and replacing all the governments on earth (Rev. 11:15).

¹⁵The seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord...and He shall reign forever and ever!" (Rev. 11:15)

- B. Before looking at the bowl judgment events we must understand what is happening at this time in heaven and on earth.
- C. *The rapture has already occurred.* Paul prophesied that the rapture would occur at the last trumpet (1 Cor. 15:51-52). The seventh trumpet mentioned in Revelation 10:7 and 11:15 is the "last trumpet" that Paul mentioned. The seven trumpet judgments in the book of Revelation are the *only* numbered trumpets in the Bible (Rev. 8-9).

⁵¹Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—⁵²in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed [the rapture]. (1 Cor. 15:51-52)

- D. *The Abomination of Desolation is still operating and is an important timing indicator* we must consider.

1. Jesus referenced the prophet Daniel in His end time address (Mat. 24:15), pointing to the *Abomination of Desolation* as the *only sign* that the Great Tribulation had started (Mat. 24:15).
2. The *AOD* occurs when the Antichrist sets up an image of Himself in the temple of God (2 Thes. 2:4; Rev. 13:14-18). There will be a rebuilt temple in Jerusalem before the Great Tribulation (Mt. 24:15; Mk. 13:14; 2 Thes. 2:4; Rev. 11:1-2; 13:12-18; Dan. 9:26-27; 11:31; 12:1; Isa. 66:1). There are already plans in Israel for its construction.

¹⁵"When you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), ¹⁶"then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains...²¹then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been." (Mt. 24:15-21)

3. Daniel prophesied that the *Abomination of Desolation* would last *1,290 days* (43 months). The Antichrist's activity will continue 43 months from the beginning of the "abomination" to the death of the Antichrist.

¹¹From the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days [1,290 days]. (Dan. 12:11)

4. John also begins counting the *AOD* at the same time, but calls that period 1260 days that the Beast will be oppressing the nations (Rev. 13:4-5). (1260 days is a 42 month period.)

⁵ And he [the Antichrist] was given . . . given authority to continue for forty-two months [1260 days]. ⁶ Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. (Rev. 13:4-5)

BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW AND END TIMES OVERVIEW - PURSUIT INTERNSHIP

SESSION 8 - SEVEN BOWLS OF WRATH - REV. 15-16

—BRIAN BEESON

5. *How do we make sense of these two time frames between Daniel and John?* John's 1260 day period, begins the same time as Daniel's but ends thirty days earlier—right at the sounding of the 7th trumpet.

First we should address what occurs during John's 1260 day time frame:

- a. **Provision:** God will supernaturally *provide* for Israel for exactly 1,260 days (Rev. 12:6, 14).
 - b. **Prophecy:** The two witnesses will *prophesy* for exactly 1,260 days (Rev. 11:3).
 - c. **Persecution:** The Antichrist will *persecute* the saints (Rev. 13:5-7; Dan. 7:25) and oppress Jerusalem (Rev. 11:2; cf. Dan. 12:7) for exactly 1,260 days.
- E. *So what is happening in the extra 30 day time-period (1290 - 1260 days = 30 days)?* While this activity of harmonizing days may seem insignificant, it is crucial to understanding **what is occurring during this 30 day period** from the sounding of the 7th trumpet begins to the moment when the Antichrist dies and the Abomination of Desolation is removed from the temple in Jerusalem.
- F. During Daniel's 30-day time period:
1. *Jesus royal procession in the sky, rapturing all the saints and marching across the land*, while *releasing the seven bowls of wrath* upon reaching the Mt. of Olives where He will deliver His people. (Rev. 1:7; 19:11; ch. 15-16). See section II for three parts of Jesus' return.
 2. *The Antichrist's political, military and religious activities will continue*, but no longer will Israel be receiving provision in the wilderness (Rev. 12:6, 14), the two witnesses prophesy (Rev. 11:3), and the the saints persecuted (Rev. 13:5-7; Dan. 7:25) and Jerusalem attacked (Rev. 11:2; Dan. 12:7; Zech. 14:1-3).
 3. The Antichrist's unchallenged dominion of Jerusalem comes to and end. *He will shift His focus* from persecuting Israel and the Church *to preparing to attack Jesus* as loud voices in heaven announced His Kingship of the earth (Rev. 11:15). A violent confrontation will occur on earth between light and darkness (Rev. ch. 15-16; 19:11-21) where it had occurred earlier in heaven (Rev. 12:7-12).

II. JESUS' ROYAL PROCESSION TO EARTH IN THE DAYS THE 7TH TRUMPET SOUNDS (REV. 10:7)

- A. The triumphant return of the King of Kings is not a "secret event" (Mt. 24:23-27; Heb. 9:28; Rev. 1:7), but a royal eschatological procession for all to see (Ps. 19:1-6; 68:24, 32-33, Zech. 9:9-10; Rev. 19:11-16). At the sounding of the seventh trumpet (Rev. 11:15; Mt. 24:31; 1 Cor. 15:52; 1 Thes. 4:16), Jesus comes with all the saints (1 Th. 3:13; Dan. 12:3; Jude 14) and angels (Mt. 25:31), traveling on clouds around the entire earth for every eye to see, descending with a great shout (1 Th. 4:16), the voice of an archangel and the trump of God, as He comes in His Father's glory (Mt. 16:27), golden splendor (Job 37:22) and great power (Mk. 13:26), traveling in the brilliance of lightning (Mt. 24:27; 2 Thes. 2:8), as fire engulfs the darkened sky (2 Th. 1:8; Zech. 14:6-7), while He *raises* the dead, *raptures* the Church, *delivers* the captives and *defeats* His enemies.
- B. We arrive to the conclusion there are *three stages to Jesus' second coming* and *return to earth* by piecing together the storyline found throughout the prophets, apostles and Jesus Himself.

- C. *Stage 1:* Jesus' procession travels across the sky on clouds to rapture the saints seen by every eye, as His Kingship is announced and asserted over every nation (Ps. 19:1-4; Mt. 24:30-31; Mk. 13:26-27; Rev. 1:7).
⁷ Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen. (Rev. 1:7; cf. Jude 14; Rev. 11:15)
- D. *Stage 2:* Jesus' royal procession marches through the land of Edom, delivering the captives of Israel, as He releases seven bowls of wrath upon His enemies on the way to Mount of Olives (Deut. 33:2; Ps. 45:3-5; 110:5-6; Isa. 11:11-16; 27:12-13; 34; 63:1-6, Mic. 7:15; Hab. 3; Zech. 9:11-17; 14:1-9; Rev. 15-16).
¹² You marched through the land in indignation; You trampled the nations in anger. ¹³ You went forth for the salvation of Your people... You struck the head [leaders]... of the wicked... (Hab. 3:12-13)
- E. *Stage 3:* Jesus descends the Mount of Olives and triumphantly enters Jerusalem to be crowned "King over all the Earth". As the greater Moses, He splits the Mount to deliver His people (Ex. 14:1-31; Zech. 14:1-9).
⁷ Lift up your heads, O you gates! ... And the King of glory shall come in. (Psalm 24:7)
- F. The Father has given Jesus preeminence in all things and will out-do *all the works* of the Old Testament leaders in a short 30 day window (Phil. 2:9-10; Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:21). The Father orchestrated the lives of Israel's fathers to foreshadow Jesus in His second coming and ministry.
¹⁸...that in all things He [Jesus] may have the preeminence. (Col. 1:18)
⁹ Therefore God [Father] also has...given Him [Jesus] the name which is above every name...(Phil 2:9)
1. He is the "**greater Moses,**" *releasing* twenty-one judgments (plagues) on the Antichrist, an "end-time Pharaoh," *freeing* the captives of Israel from prison camps (Isa. 11:11-12, 16; 27:13; 42:7, 9, 22; 49:9; Hos. 11:11; Zech. 10:10-11; Jer. 30:3-24; 31:1-23; Ezek. 20:33-44; 39:25-29; Amos 9:8-15; Joel 3:1-2; Zeph. 3:19-20; Zech. 9:10-14).
 2. He is the "**greater Joshua,**" *leading* those liberated into the "Promise Land," *removing* the wicked kings and reprobate from the earth in humility, truth, righteousness and zeal (Josh. 6:13, 15-16, 20-21; Rev. 8:6; 11:15-19; Josh. 10:24-26; 11:7-24; Rev. 19:19; Isa. 24:21; Psalm 110:5-6; Josh. 6:21; 8:26; 10:28, 35-40; 11:11-14, 20-21; Gen. 15:16-21; Lev. 18:27-28; Rev. 9:20-21; 16:9, 11; 11:18; 14:15, 18-20; 19:15; Psa. 45:4; Isa. 59:16-18; 61:1-2; 63:1, 4) and *dividing* up Israel's inheritance (Josh. ch. 13-22; Isa. 26:15; 49:20; Jer. 3:16; 23:8; Ezek. 47:13-48:29)
 3. He is the "**greater Elijah,**" *confronting* the Antichrist and the False Prophet, *slaughtering* all the false prophets in the land (1 Kings 18:19-24; 40; Zech. 13:2; Rev. 19:20), *breaking the drought* in the land with rain, natural and supernatural water sources (1 Kings 17:1, 7; 18:41-45; James 5:17-18; Rev. 11:3, 6; Zech. 10:1; 14:17-18; Isa. 35:6b-7; 30:25; 33:16; Ezek. 41:1-7), *cleansing* Israel and the earth of idolatry originating from the Babylon system (Isa. 4:3-4; 33:14; 60:21; 62:1-2; Ezek. 20:37-38; Isa. 42:17; 45:16; 48:3-5), and *turning* Israel and the nations to God (1 Kings 18:21-24; Rom. 11:25-27; Isa 11:10; 19:23-25; 24:16; 25:6-9; Isa. 60:1-16; 66:23; Zech. 14:16).

4. He is the “**greater David**,” winning back Jerusalem where He establishes His throne (Josh. 15:63; Judges 1:21; 2 Sam. 5:6-7; Deut. 12:5; 2 Chr. 6:5-6; Mat. 5:31; Zech. 14:1-5; Isa. 31:4-9; 33:5, 20; Isa. 9:6-7; 25:6-7; Mat. 25:31-32; Jer. 3:17) and rebuilds the temple (Zech. 6:12-13; John 2:19-20; Hag. 2:9; Ezek. ch. 40-47; Joel 3:18).

III. THE RETURN OF JESUS AND HIS SECOND COMING - THREE TYPES OF PEOPLE PRESENT

- A. Redeemed: The saints who are gathered at the “rapture” during the first stage of Jesus’ procession across the sky (Mt. 24:30-31; Mk. 13:26-27; 1 Cor. 15:51-52; 1 Thes. 4:16-17; Rev. 1:7; 10:7).

²⁶They will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷...He will send His angels... gather together His elect from the... earth [rapture] to heaven [resurrection]. (Mat. 13:26-27)

- B. Reprobate: The wicked who took the “mark of the Beast” and will be executed, imprisoned in Hades for 1000 years and finally sentenced to the Lake of Fire forever (Isa. 66:22-24; Rev. 14:9-11; 19:21).

⁹If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark... ¹⁰ he shall drink of the wrath of God...poured out full strength... ¹¹ the smoke of their torment ascends forever... (Rev. 14:9-11)

- C. Resistors: These are the unsaved survivors of the Great Tribulation judgments that refused to worship the Antichrist, yet were not “born again” (Jn. 3:3-8). This includes the unsaved remnant of Israel, as well as, Gentiles from every nation. All will have an opportunity to receive Jesus as their Savior after He returns and populate the millennial earth. Scripture refers to those “who are left”, “who survived”, “who escaped”, “who remain”, the “preserved ones” or the “remnant” (Isa. 4:3-6; 10:20-23; 11:11-12; 49:6; 65:8; 66:19; Jer. 31:2; Ezek. 20:38-42; 36:33-36; Dan. 12:1; Amos 9:9-12; Joel 2:32; Zech. 12:14; 13:8; 14:16).

¹¹ The Lord shall set His hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people who are left, from Assyria and Egypt... ¹² from the four corners of the earth... (Isa. 11:11-12)

IV. THE HEAVENLY CONTEXT OF THE RELEASE OF THE BOWLS OF WRATH (REV. 15)

- A. John saw end-time believers, victorious over the Antichrist, standing on the sea of glass in heaven singing about the greatness of the Lord (Rev. 15:1-4; cf. 7:9-17). This would be all the saints who were waiting in heaven plus those recently raptured at the seventh trumpet—an estimated 3 billion believers (Rev. 10:7; 11:15). They are standing before Him on the sea of glass which has come down to accommodate all the raptured saints (Ex. 24; Ezek. 1:22-26; Eph. 1:9-10).

¹I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete. ²I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the Beast [Antichrist]...standing on the sea of glass...³They sing the song of Moses...and the song of the Lamb, saying: “Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints...⁴For all nations shall... worship before You, for Your judgments have been manifested.” (Rev. 15:1-4)

- B. The temple opened in heaven, and seven angels received seven bowls of wrath (Rev. 15:5-8).

⁵After these things...the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened. ⁶And out of the temple came the seven angels having the seven plagues, clothed in pure bright linen, and having their chests girded with golden bands. ⁷Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God who lives forever and ever. ⁸The temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power, and no one was able to enter the temple till the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed. (Rev. 15:5-8)

V. THE SEVEN BOWLS OF GOD'S WRATH (REV. 16): THE FIRST FIVE BOWLS

A. The seven angels will be commissioned in the heavenly temple to pour out the bowls of wrath.

¹I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, "Go and pour out the bowls of the wrath of God on the earth." (Rev. 16:1)

B. **First bowl (sores):** Sores will cause great suffering for those who worship the Antichrist (Rev. 16:2). **Foul** refers to their stench, much like rotten, putrid meat. **Loathsome** refers to pain cause so that men loathe life itself. The sixth plague on the Egyptians and their beasts was painful sores (Ex. 9:8-12). Moses warned Israel that God would give them painful boils if they rebelled against Him painful sores would come upon them (Deut. 28:35).

²The first went and poured out his bowl...and a foul and loathsome sore came upon the men who had the mark of the beast [Antichrist]. (Rev. 16:2)

C. **Second bowl (food supply):** The sea will become congealed blood, killing all the sea life (Rev. 16:3), resulting in a terrible stench and loss food resources as all marine life dies. This will be a *complete* destruction of marine life, not just a 1/3-destruction as in the second trumpet. Some believe this refers to the Mediterranean Sea only as it is the focus of Daniel 7:2-8. The second bowl judgment parallels the first plague against Egypt (Ex. 7:14-25; Ps. 105:29; 78:44).

³Then the second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it became blood as of a dead man; and every living creature in the sea died. (Rev. 16:3)

D. **Third bowl (water supply):** The earth's fresh water will be poisoned with blood (Rev. 16:4-7). The third trumpet (Rev. 8:10) is similar to the third bowl in that it defiles the drinking water. The first plague on Egypt struck the Nile with a similar impact to this (Ex. 7:19-21).

⁴Then the third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood. ⁵I heard the angel of the waters saying: "You are righteous, O Lord...because You have judged these things. ⁶For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink. For it is their just due." ⁷I heard another from the altar [heavenly intercession] saying, "Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments." (Rev. 16:4-7)

E. **Fourth bowl (torment):** The sun will produce scorching heat (Rev. 16:8-9). This is most likely a supernatural act of God, not merely a natural one. The heat is a foretaste of the Lake of Fire where they will go if they don't repent (Isa. 66:24; Mk. 9:43-44, 45-46, 48; Rev. 20:14-15). Instead, they would rather accuse God's character versus take responsibility for their own sinful choices. The fourth trumpet will affect the sun in the opposite way, making it less intense.

⁸*The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and power was given to him to scorch men with fire.*

⁹*And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory. (Rev. 16:8-9)*

- F. ***Fifth bowl (darkness)***: Darkness will fall on the Antichrist's global empire (Rev. 16:10-11). This darkness will have a supernatural, *demonic element* to it and causes *pain* (Rev. 16:10), impacting energy and temperature, environmental, societal, mental, emotional and spiritual states, etc... Isaiah saw a "deep" darkness covering the earth before the Lord's return (Isa. 60:1-2). The darkness is a foretaste to the "outer darkness" (Mk. 8:12; 22:13; 25:30) of Lake of Fire that the wicked will feel for eternity if they don't repent. The ninth plague of Egypt caused darkness for three days which could be "felt" (Ex. 10:21-23).

¹⁰*The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues because of the pain. ¹¹*They blasphemed God...because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds. (Rev. 16:10-11)**

- G. The Antichrist's worshipers will not repent, but will blaspheme God (Rev. 16:9, 11, 21), showing their deep hatred of Him. As God's judgments increase, the hatred and blasphemy of the wicked will come fully into the open. This exposes the "mystery of lawlessness" in the human heart at its fullest level: that some would rather choose such pain and torment over loving a good God and letting Him love them (2 Thess. 2:7).

⁷*For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. (2 Thess. 2:7)*

VI. SIXTH BOWL: DEMONS LURE THE NATIONS TO ARMAGEDDON

- A. ***Sixth bowl (global guilt)***: Demons will lure the nations to gather to fight Jesus (Rev. 16:12-16). What began with a 10 nation confederation supporting the Antichrist will now be *ALL THE NATIONS* of the earth (presently 232 nations) openly supporting the false trinity of Satan, the Antichrist and the False Prophet.

¹²*The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared. ¹³*I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon [Satan], out of the mouth of the beast [Antichrist], and out of the mouth of the false prophet. ¹⁴*They are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth...to gather them to the Battle of that great day of God Almighty... ¹⁶*They gathered them together to...Armageddon. (Rev. 16:12-16)****

- B. ***The Kings from the East***. These Asian nations resisted the Antichrist until the very end, causing him much trouble (Dan. 11:44) but at the sixth bowl will join him in declaration of war against Jesus.
- C. ***The Euphrates was dried up***. Part of the purpose of the sixth bowl is to dry up this river (In eastern Turkey, Syria and Iraq), allowing for armies to easily cross and join the Antichrist. Later, God uses the result of this plague to allow weary Jewish captives in Northern countries a direct route to Israel (Isa. 11:15; 27:12-13).
- D. It is very surprising that *the nations will come to fight Jesus* as He marches toward Jerusalem. They are surely not gathering from around the world to fight Israel's small, poorly armed army. Why would the Antichrist mobilize the nations to finish-off an already shattered Israel (Dan. 12:7)? Why would the kings of the east deploy hundreds of thousands of soldiers (costing untold billions of dollars) to fight a weak Israel?

¹⁴*These [the 10 kings] will make war with the Lamb...for He is...King of kings (Rev. 17:14)*

¹⁹I saw the beast [Antichrist], the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him [Jesus]...and against His army. (Rev. 19:19)

- E. The kings of the nations will see the sign of the Son of Man in the sky (Mt. 24:30; Rev. 1:7), but will wrongly interpret it as a demonic sign of a false messiah coming to disrupt their kingdoms. Then these kings will have urgency to gather to war against Jesus. The Antichrist will use his most convincing miracles to persuade them that defeating Jesus is necessary and doable (Mt. 24:24; Rev. 13:13-14; 2 Thes. 2:9-11).

³⁰The sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven...all the tribes of the earth will mourn... they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds...with power and great glory. (Mt. 24:30)

- F. The Pharisees accused Jesus of doing miracles by Satan's power (Mt. 12:24). Jesus taught that to attribute the power of the Spirit to Satan is to blaspheme against the Spirit. The only people who do this are those who are hardened to such a degree that they will not repent. Blasphemy against the Spirit is full and final rejection of the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Those who do this are reprobate, having a heart that is permanently hardened, with no inclination to repent (1 Tim. 4:1-2; Heb. 6:4-6; 1 Jn. 5:16). *If you are concerned, you **have not** done it. A person who has blasphemed the Holy Spirit **does not care**.*

³²“Whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him.” (Mt. 12:32)

- G. The sixth bowl allows for global blasphemy against the Spirit as the nations receive “*the lie*” (2 Thes. 2:10). This “lie” will most likely include acknowledging Jesus' power as being demonic. It will be easy for worldwide blasphemy when sin has escalated to maturity (Dan. 8:23; Mt. 13:29-30; Rev. 14:18; 17:4; 18:5).

⁹The coming of the lawless one [Antichrist]...with all power, signs, and lying wonders, ¹⁰and with all unrighteous deception...because they did not receive the love of the truth...¹¹For this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie. (2 Thes. 2:9-11)

- H. Who is gathering forces at Jerusalem to fight against Jesus?

1. *God's plan* is to gather the reprobate in one place to destroy them and cleanse the earth of them and by demonstrating His power by delivering them from their oppressor, win Israel (Joel 3:2, 9-17; Zeph. 3:8; Zech. 12:3; 14:2-5).
2. *Satan's motive* is to gather the world's largest army, supplied by every nation, in order to defeat Jesus and be the king of the earth out of Jerusalem (Isa. 14:12-15; Mt. 24:15; 2 Thes. 2:4; Rev 2:13; 13:2; 16:12-16). Whatever Satan does ultimately falls into God's greater purposes as in this situation (Ezek. 38:16-23; Rom. 9:17).
3. *The kings of the earth contest* Jesus in order to satisfy their lust for power, wealth and land, etc... (Ezek. 35:1-15; Zech. 12:3; Rev. 17:14; 19:19).
4. God will even *use angels* to gather the reprobate! (Joel 3:11; Mt. 13:24-30; 36-43; Rev. 14:17-20)

² I [the Lord] will also gather all nations...to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; and I will enter into judgment with them there on account of My people [Israel]...¹² Let the nations be wakened, and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; For there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations. (Joel 3:2, 12)

VII. SEVENTH BOWL: EARTHQUAKES AND HAILSTONES

- A. **Seventh bowl (annihilation):** This bowl is *the most intense* of all the twenty-one judgments! It will involve releasing *the most severe earthquake* in history, followed by *100-lb. hailstones* (Rev. 16:17-21; Isa 24:19; Hag. 2:21), *flooding rain, fire* and *brimstone* (Ezek. 38:18-23; Isa. 30:30), “*great panic*” as men turn to fight against each other in confusion and fear (Ezek. 38:21; Hag. 2:21-22; Zech. 14:13) while it is *released in the air* (Rev. 16:17), causing the *dissolution of flesh*, including tongue and eyes (Zech. 14:12-15). The seventh bowl is further described in Isaiah 24.

17...poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice... from the throne, saying, “It is done!” 18...there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth. 19Now the great city [Jerusalem] was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath. 20Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. 21And great hail from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone about the weight of a talent [100 pounds]. Men blasphemed God... (Rev. 16:17-21)

- B. This plague will *remove all reprobate* from the earth. All *the saints have been raptured*. **So who is left upon the earth?**—only those who are unbelievers who did not take the mark of the Beast...A very small group relative to the world’s population today! The Lord said through Isaiah there would be massive loss of life at this time: “**I will make a mortal more rare than fine gold**” (Isa. 13:12), where “**few men are left.**” (Isa. 24:16) in the time when “**The Lord will judge all flesh and the slain of the Lord shall be many.**” (Isa. 66:16)
- C. Using population estimates for 2050, if there are *10 billion* on the earth at the beginning of the Great Tribulation, one-quarter will die (2.5 billion) at the fourth seal (Rev. 6:8), leaving 7.5 billion, another one-third (2.5 billion) die in this plague, *leaving 5 billion*. If the saints represent 1 billion and the reprobate alive at the bowl judgments (1-3 billion?), leaving 1 billion left?
- D. *This last earthquake* will cause islands to flee (sink in the ocean) and the mountains to fall (Rev. 16:20). The earthquake allows for God to remake the topography of the earth, *leveling all the cities of the earth* while *dividing Jerusalem* in *three parts* and *elevating it* above all other mountains to later serve as the global political, religious, geographic, etc.. epicenter of the whole earth! (Isa. 2:10, 19, 21; 13:13; 24:19-20; 29:6; Ezek. 38:19; Hag. 2:6, 21; Zech. 14:4-5; Heb. 12:26-27; Ps. 48:1-2; Isa. 2:2-4; Zech. 14:10; Ezek. 40:2).
- E. *Hailstones weighing 100 pounds* (a talent) fall on the people seeking safety from earthquakes. The Lord spoke to Job about the hailstones He had reserved in His treasury of war for the last days (Job 38:22-23). The law of Moses required the stoning to death of idol worshipers (Deut. 17:2-5; cf. Lev. 24:16). Since the Antichrist’s worship movement is idolatrous, Jesus Himself will fulfill the Law by stoning them to death from heaven (Mat. 5:17). A 100-pound hailstone hits the ground with the equivalent force of two tons.
- 22I will bring him [Antichrist] to judgment...I will rain down on...his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, flooding rain, great hailstones, fire, and brimstone. (Ezek. 38:22)*
- 22 “Have you [Job] entered the treasury of snow, or have you seen the treasury of hail, 23 which I [the Lord] have reserved for the time of trouble, for the day of battle and war? (Job 38:22-23)*

- F. Both the hail and earthquake destroy what is left of the Antichrist's infrastructure on earth, "dashing it to pieces with His rod of iron" (Ps. 2:9). It's Jesus' great demolition project before rebuilding His Kingdom on the earth (Dan. 2:34-35).

³⁴ You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay [Antichrist's empire], and broke them in pieces. ³⁵ Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together [all four kingdoms of man], and became like chaff... the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain [New Jerusalem on earth, Rev. 21-22]...filled the whole earth. (Dan. 2:34-35)

- G. As the "Greater Moses" Jesus will use the giant earthquake in the 7th bowl to move mountains and open-up an escape route for the besieged (unsaved remnant) Jews in Jerusalem (Amos 1:1; Zech 14:5).

3 Then the Lord will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle. 4 ...And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west, making a very large valley; half of the mountain shall move toward the north and half of it toward the south. 5 Then you shall flee through My mountain valley, For the mountain valley shall reach to Azal. Yes, you shall flee As you fled from the earthquake In the days of Uzziah king of Judah. (Zech. 14:3-5)

- H. Jesus will meet them as they escape. He will have marched from the South in Edom (modern Saudi Arabia / Jordan) having slain His enemies in up-close combat by *trampling over them* (Isa. 63:1-6; Hab. 3:3-16), *melting them* with the intensity of His heat and brightness (Ps. 68:2; Ps. 97:5; Isa. 30:28; 33:12; Mal. 3:2; Micah 1:4; 2 Thes. 1:7-9; 2:8) and *destroying them* with the Word from His mouth (Rev. 1:16; 2:16; 19:15, 21). He will stand on the Mount of Olives where He will meet the Jews who are fleeing the city of Jerusalem (Zech. 14:3-5). This is your God!

³ For I [Jesus] have trodden them [my enemies] in My anger, and trampled them in My fury; their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, and I have stained all My robes. ⁴ For the day of vengeance is in My heart, and the year of My redeemed has come... (Isa. 63:3-4)

² As wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God. (Psalm 68:2)

⁸ And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. (2 Thes. 2:8)

⁴ And in that day His feet [Jesus'] will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east.... ⁵ Then you [Jews] shall flee through My mountain valley... (Zech. 14:4-5)

- I. The next event after the seven bowls is Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem (Rev. 19:11-21).

¹¹ Behold, a white horse. He [Jesus] who sat on him...judges and makes war...¹³ He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood...¹⁹ I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him...²⁰ Then the beast was captured, and...cast alive into the lake of fire...²¹ The rest were killed with the sword... (Rev. 19:11-21)

- J. The next chronological event after the seven bowls is Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem (Rev. 19:11-21). Revelation 17-18 is an angelic parenthesis explaining why Babylon and it's system must be judged.